

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Supplemental Information Report
October 1, 2010

Patterson Irrigation District Fish Screen Project – Proposed New Electrical Building



Supplemental Information Report

Patterson Irrigation District Fish Screen Project – Proposed New Electrical Building

1. **Proposed Project /Action Title:** Patterson Irrigation District Fish Screen Project
2. **Existing Environmental Document:** Patterson Irrigation District Fish Screen Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration / Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. FONSI signed July 16, 2007, (PID, 2007).
3. **NEPA Lead Agency Name/Address:** United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
Central Valley Operations
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 300, Sacramento, CA 95821
4. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Tammy LaFramboise
Natural Resource Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825
916-978-5269
916-978-5290 fax
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Peter Rietkerk, General Manager
948 Orange Avenue
Patterson CA 95363
209-892-6233

6. Proposed Project /Action Location:

PID is located near the City of Patterson, in Stanislaus County, California along the San Joaquin River. PID's existing surface water pumping plant is situated on the western bank of the San Joaquin River, approximately 3.5 miles east of the City of Patterson and just over a quarter mile north of West Main Street. Access to the project site is available through East Las Palmas Avenue. The fish screen and related project construction is planned to occur within the existing fenced site of PID's pumping plant.

7. Description of Proposed Modifications to the Original Project / Action:

PID proposes to construct a new electrical building and demolish an existing pump house within the existing fenced site of PID's pumping plant as a modification to the Proposed Project / Action. As shown on **Figure 1**, Site Plan with Proposed Electrical Building, the new electrical building would be located directly west of the existing pump house (which is actually the existing electrical building). The PID Fish Screen Project Initial Study / Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) and Mitigated Negative Declaration / Finding of No Significant

Impact (MND/FONSI) was completed in 2007. The FONSI was signed on July 16, 2007. A new FONSI has been prepared for the modified Proposed Project/Action.

The purpose and objective of the Proposed Project /Action is to screen PID's intake diversion near Patterson. This will allow migrating Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other native fish species to pass by PID's intake diversion without the risk of entrainment. The second objective or purpose of the Proposed Project /Action is to ensure a reliable water supply for PID in the long-term so that diversions may continue even if the listed fish species are present in the vicinity of the diversion. To accomplish these objectives, the Proposed Project /Action will comply with CDFG and NMFS fish screen criteria. The electrical facilities to support the proposed fish screen are not discussed within the project purpose and need because they are ancillary to the overall project.

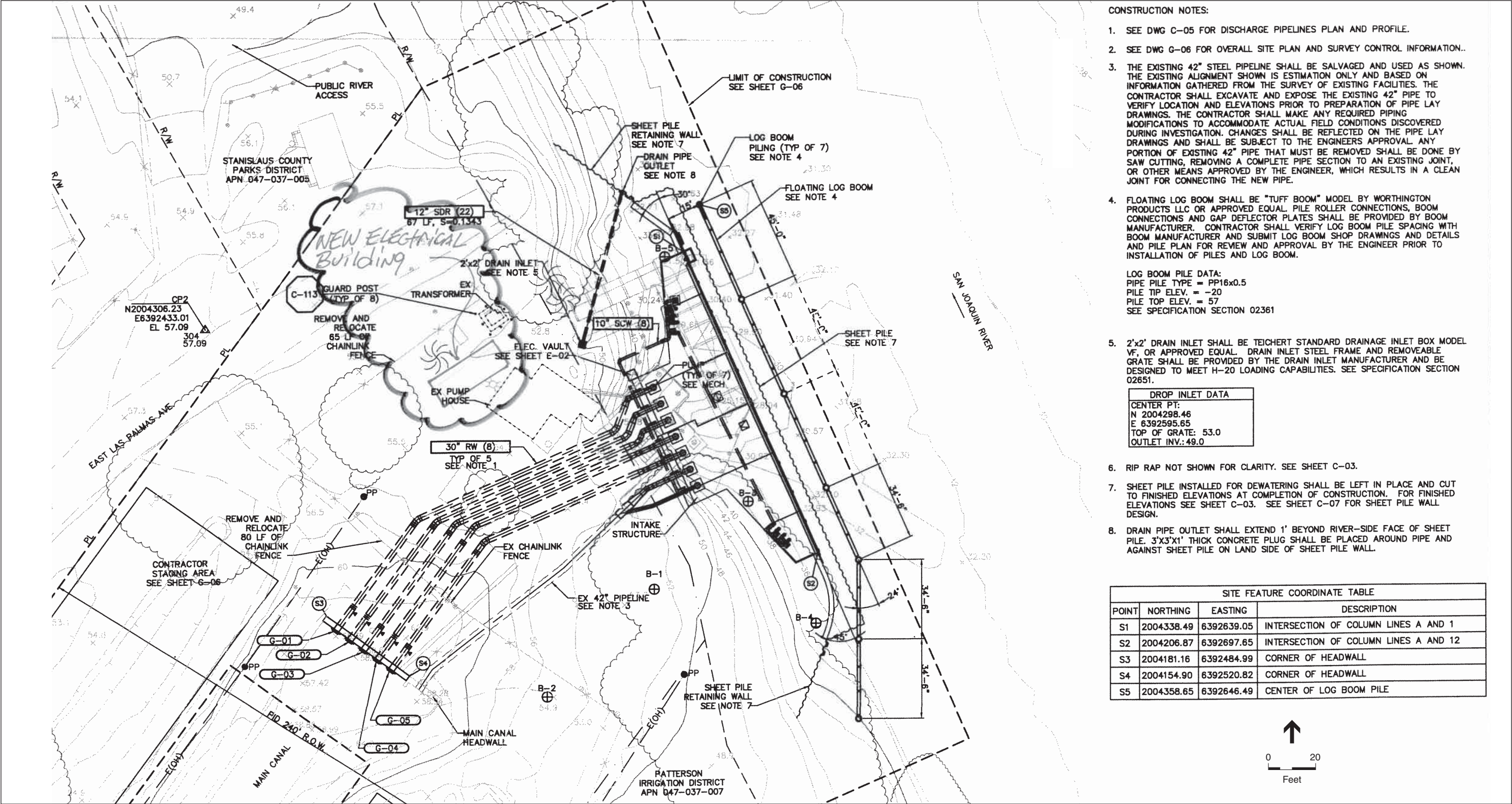
The PID Fish Screen Project originally planned to use the existing Allen-Bradley IntelliCENTER electrical and instrumentation equipment, located in an existing pump house (electrical building) for the new facility. At this time, however, a new electrical building is proposed to replace the existing pump house (see Figure 1). An electrical building contractor would relocate all of the existing electrical and instrumentation and control facilities from the old building to the new one during an approximately 14-day construction period. The new work would also include demolition of the existing pump house (electrical building) and some trenching for conduit which was to be done with the original project. The proposed changes to the project would occur away from the riverfront, and would not modify the fish screen design or otherwise affect the project purpose, need or objectives. Environmental commitments listed in Section 2.4 of the IS/EA would remain in place. Measures to mitigate potential project impacts would also remain in effect.

Construction of a new electrical building would reduce the need for PID maintenance staff to make weekly maintenance visits to the site. Because the contractor would be able to access the site from both directions, construction of the new electrical building would facilitate access and thereby reduce the distance that workers would travel to deliver equipment to the site. With the proposed modification, the new structure would accelerate completion of the PID Fish Screen Project and would reduce vehicle trips associated with construction.

The new electrical building, to be built of concrete masonry units (CMUs), would require the following workers and equipment during the construction period:

- one backhoe to dig foundation (one day to dig, District staff to dig foundation and form the base slab)
- two concrete trucks and one concrete pump truck to pour building foundation
- one flatbed truck to deliver the CMUs to be offloaded by hand
- one flatbed truck to deliver roofing materials
- one utility truck for a building mason
- one utility truck for a roofing contractor

The proposed workers and equipment are similar to those described in the project's approved IS/EA. The remainder of the work would be completed by the existing contractor for the PID Fish Screen Project.



SOURCE: MWH, 2009; and ESA, 2010

Patterson Fish Screen Project . 208413

Figure 1

Site Plan with Proposed Electrical Building

8. Purpose of Technical Memorandum

Reclamation staff requested information about the proposed changes to the project description, as the changes could affect the action alternatives, impacts, and other components of the NEPA analysis. The environmental evaluation below focuses on proposed changes to the project description. Reclamation staff used this information to determine if a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house would substantially change the analysis or conclusions presented in the existing NEPA documents. The environmental evaluation will be used to aid the decision to supplement, revise or, simply have a record of the information used to make a decision to proceed without changing the adopted EA/FONSI.

9. Summary of Findings related to Modification of the Original Project / Action:

In summary, the proposed construction of a new electrical building and demolition of an existing pump house within the existing fenced site of PID's pumping facility would not substantially change the analysis or findings presented in the existing IS/EA and MND/FONSI documents. Therefore, this supplemental information report will be used in preparation of a new FONSI which will document the change in the project description, and no further environmental evaluation is required.

Environmental Evaluation

Aesthetics

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be less than significant impacts related to aesthetics of the site and its surroundings, and that no mitigation would be required. The IS/EA also states that once construction is completed, the project site will be landscaped to blend in with the surrounding environment, consistent with Stanislaus County design standards.

The IS/EA stated that the footprint of the new fish screen structure would be slightly larger than the existing structure. However, the design and layout of the structure would not significantly modify the visual character of the immediate project area. Once built, the fish screen structure will blend in with the adjacent boat ramp and recreation area just to the north and other diversion structures upstream and downstream along the San Joaquin River. Although the Pump House is shown on the site plan, it is not referenced in the text. With this understanding, visual impacts would be considered less than significant.

As for new light and glare, the IS/EA indicated that there are very few residences in the immediate vicinity and there are occasional visitors at the boat ramp facility, there would be no significant impact on day or night time views in the area.

The existing pump house (electrical building) structure has boarded windows (see photographs in **Attachment A**) and is not discussed as a building that provides scenic character to the site. The site will be landscaped after construction. Provision of a new structure that is about one-half the size of the existing metal structure is not anticipated to change the IS/EA findings related to aesthetics.

Agricultural Resources

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be no impacts to Important Farmland, land zoned for agriculture or other impacts related to conversion of farmland on the site and in its surroundings, and that no mitigation would be required. Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change these IS/EA findings related to agricultural resources.

Air Quality

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that the Proposed Project /Action would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plans and would result in no odor impacts. Project construction would be conducted using air pollution reduction measures including preparation and use of an emissions control plan to control fugitive dust (see Section 2.4 Environmental Commitments) and otherwise meet requirements of the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District. The IS/EA also states that the proposed pump station facilities would generate negligible emissions over the long-term during its operational phase, therefore no long-term effects upon air quality are anticipated.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would be comparable to the construction and operation assessed in the IS/EA. Furthermore, the new electrical building would incorporate the existing electrical components of the Pump House; the changes to the project do not represent any new or unforeseen electrical usage not already analysis in the IS/EA. Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would require incorporation of planned air pollution reduction measures for the new construction, however the proposed electrical building is not expected to change the IS/EA findings related to air quality.

Biological Resources

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be less than significant impacts related to biological resources for the site and its surroundings with implementation of specified mitigation measures. Environmental commitments (see Section 2.4 of the IS/EA) also include measures to minimize the potential for impacts to wetlands or fisheries resulting from construction of the fish screen within the San Joaquin River. Previous assessment of sensitive species, wetlands and riparian resources completed for the 2007 IS/EA determined that there are three natural community types within or near the proposed project site: riparian, annual grassland and San Joaquin River. However, the area around the existing pump house (electrical building) was labeled as “barren/roadway/structure” (see Figure 3-3, page 3-9 of the IS/EA) and is not considered to support sensitive habitats. The IS/EA includes multiple measures to protect Swainson’s hawk, pond turtle, fish species and several avian and bat species, and these mitigation measures remain applicable.

Since the project site falls within the active impact area evaluated within the IS/EA and there are existing mitigation measures addressing the potential for impacts to terrestrial and aquatic species and habitats, combined with the fact that the area near the proposed electrical building site is not considered suitable habitat for any special status species, the modified Proposed Project/Action would not change the IS/EA findings related to biological resources.

Cultural Resources

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be less than significant project effects related to cultural resources impacts for the site and its surroundings. This is in part because environmental commitments (listed in Section 2.4 of the IS/EA) include measures to minimize the potential for impacts to cultural resources resulting from accidental

discovery of archaeological resources or human remains. Previous assessment of archaeological and historic resources completed for the 2007 IS/EA determined that the Proposed Project /Action is not likely to result in an adverse impact to historic structures, as the existing pump house was determined to be ineligible for listing in either the National or California Registers, and therefore not considered a cultural resource. As shown in the DPR 523 form (see **Attachment A**), the existing pump house (electrical building) is not a significant structure as the pump station is a simple industrial-style building lacking architectural merit, and archival research revealed no associations with significant historical events or individuals. No other historic structures, including a similar metal building which will also be demolished, were identified in the 2007 IS/EA.

Since there are existing mitigation measures addressing the potential for accidental discovery of archaeological resources or the accidental disturbance of human remains, and archival evidence did not indicate the presence of any recorded archaeological resources within the project area, the modified project/action would not change the IS/EA findings related to cultural resources.

Geology and Soils

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be less than significant project effects related to unstable soils, seismic risk or other soil or geology-related impacts for the site and its surroundings, and that no project-specific mitigation would be required. Environmental commitments (listed in Section 2.4 of the IS/EA) include use of comprehensive subsurface geotechnical investigations and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality. These commitments and their related permit conditions would remain in effect, as further discussed under Hydrology and Water Quality, below.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would require preparation of a SWPPP that incorporates the new construction, however this would not change the IS/EA findings related to geology and soils.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be less than significant project effects related to the transport or use of hazardous materials or other hazard-related impacts for the site and its surroundings. This is in part because environmental commitments (listed in Section 2.4 of the IS/EA) include measures to minimize the potential for fire or issues related to handling of hazardous materials, and include implementation of a hazardous materials management plan. Also, the Proposed Project /Action is not located on a site which is included on any list of known hazardous materials sites. However, because the project site could contain previously unidentified contaminated soils, a mitigation measure to address the potential for hazardous material discovery is included in the IS/EA.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property could increase the potential for discovery of previously unidentified contaminated soils. Since there is an existing mitigation measure to address the potential for hazardous material discovery already included in the IS/EA, as well as environmental commitments to minimize the potential for hazards, the modified project/action would not change the IS/EA findings related to hazards and hazardous materials.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be less than significant project effects related to potential violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or flood-related impacts for the site and its surroundings, and that no project-specific mitigation would be required. Environmental commitments (listed in Section 2.4 of

the IS/EA) include use of implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) to protect water quality. Most of the project's water quality related requirements were written to address the planned in-river construction of the fish screen facility using a coffer dam to dewater a small portion of the project area. Although the proposed electrical building is located on the relatively flat area away from the waterfront, these commitments would remain in effect, as further outlined below.

As stated in the IS/EA, the construction contractor would follow the SWPPP and perform measures to ensure that petroleum products are not discharged into the river. Elements of the SWPPP will include a description of potentially hazardous and non-hazardous materials that could be spilled accidentally during construction (fuels, equipment lubricant, human waste and chemical toilets, and drilling fluids). It will also identify potential spill sources, potential spill causes, proper storage and transport methods, spill containment, spill recovery, agency notification, and responsible parties. The SWPPP will include measures to minimize erosion and sediment transport to streams and identify best management practices (e.g., water diversion and sediment containment devices, protection of construction spoils, installation of water bars), site restoration, post-construction monitoring of the effectiveness of best management practices, contingency measures, responsible parties, and agency contacts. Erosion control measures could include storing spoils above the ordinary high-water mark and protecting receiving waters from these erosion source areas with silt fences or other effective sediment control devices.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change the IS/EA findings related to hydrology and water quality.

Land Use and Planning

The 2007 IS/EA indicated that the Proposed Project /Action is in compliance with applicable Stanislaus County General Plan land use policies and regulations that support the protection of local fisheries and concluded that there would be no conflicts with existing land uses or land use plans. Further, the project would not physically divide an existing community and the project is not in a defined habitat conservation area. Since there would be no land use impacts, no land use related mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change these IS/EA findings related to land use and planning.

Mineral Resources

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that the Proposed Project /Action would not result in any loss in availability of mineral resources since the project site is already developed and would expand only slightly beyond the existing footprint of the structure. Since there would be no impacts to mineral resources, no mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change these IS/EA findings related to mineral resources.

Noise

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that the Proposed Project /Action would result in less than significant noise impacts. The project site is located in rural Stanislaus County. Sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the Proposed Project/Action are generally limited to occasional visitors of the boat ramp facility just north of the project site. Construction, to be conducted using noise reduction measures listed in Section 2.4, is not expected to result in noise impacts or require noise-related mitigation. The IS/EA also states that the proposed pump station facilities would generate

noise comparable to that of the existing pump station facility, and that no long-term changes to the ambient noise environment are anticipated.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would be comparable to the construction and operation noise assessed in the IS/EA and the proposed electrical building is not expected to not change the IS/EA findings related to noise.

Population and Housing

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that the Proposed Project /Action would not result in any increase in population or affect housing needs since the project site is already developed for non-residential uses and would expand only slightly beyond the existing footprint of the irrigation district structures. Since there would be no impacts to population or housing, no mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change these IS/EA findings related to population and housing.

Public Services

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that the Proposed Project /Action would not result in any increased need for public services (police, fire, schools, parks or other public facilities) since the project site is already developed for irrigation district facilities and the proposed facilities would not extend the existing pumping plant property. Since there would be no impacts to public services, no mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change these IS/EA findings related to public services.

Recreation

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that the Proposed Project /Action would not result in any increased need for recreation or related services since the project site is already developed for irrigation district facilities and the proposed facilities would not extend the existing pumping plant property. Since there would be no impacts to recreation, no mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change these IS/EA findings related to recreation.

Transportation and Traffic

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that construction and operation of the Proposed Project /Action would not result in increased traffic congestion, incompatible uses or inadequate emergency access since the project site is already developed and the Proposed Project /Action would expand only slightly beyond the existing footprint of the irrigation district structures. Since there would be no impacts, no mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would be comparable to the construction and operational traffic assessed in the IS/EA, and would likely reduce overall construction traffic by making construction traffic access more efficient. Construction of the proposed electrical building would not change the IS/EA findings related to transportation and traffic.

Utilities and Service Systems

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that the Proposed Project /Action would not result in any increased need of water or wastewater utilities or affect utility service systems since the project site is already developed for irrigation district facilities and the proposed fish screen facilities would not extend the existing pumping plant property nor require additional water to be diverted. The IS/EA also indicated that sufficient landfill space exists at the Fink Road Landfill operated by Stanislaus County to accommodate construction waste. Since there would be no impacts to utilities or their service systems, no mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would result in some increased solid waste as compared with the existing Proposed Project /Action. However, sufficient landfill space is available at the Fink Road Landfill (operated by Stanislaus County) to accommodate the additional construction waste. The proposed changes would not change these IS/EA findings related to utilities and service systems.

SocioEconomic Effects and Environmental Justice

The 2007 IS/EA indicated that the Proposed Project /Action would not result in any adverse socioeconomic effects, conflict with environmental justice policies or affect Indian Trust Assets. Since there would be no socioeconomic or related impacts, no mitigation would be required.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would not change these IS/EA findings related to socioeconomic effects or environmental justice.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

The 2007 IS/EA concluded that there would be less than significant impacts related to degradation of the environment, cumulative environmental effects or other substantial environmental (direct or indirect) on human beings. Any other impacts attributable to the Proposed Project /Action, as evaluated throughout the various section of the IS/EA, are considered less-than-significant or can be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. All mitigation measures and environmental commitments listed in the IS/EA would remain in effect.

Provision of a new electrical building and demolition of the existing pump house within the existing PID property would be comparable to the construction and operational traffic assessed in the IS/EA. Construction of the proposed electrical building would not change any of the mandatory findings of significance within the IS/EA.

References

PID, 2007. Patterson Irrigation District Fish Screen Project Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration / Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. Prepared for Patterson Irrigation District. July 2007.